

Recreational Fishing

Park Emergency Number (800) 732-0911

02/05

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Shenandoah National Park



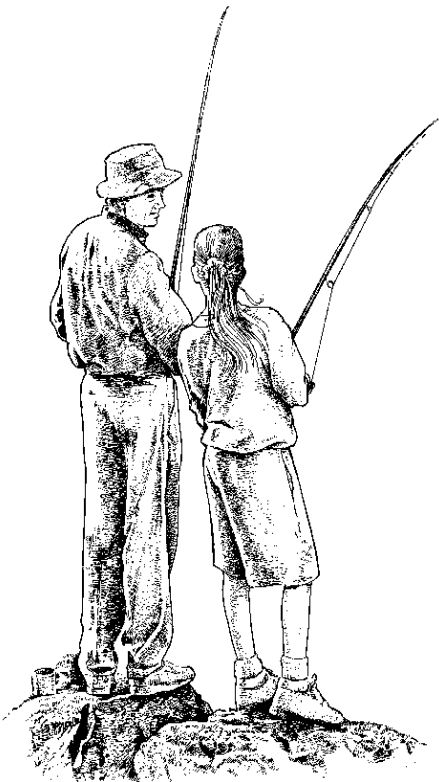
Shenandoah National Park contains over 70 mountain streams and their minor tributaries that serve as high quality sources for three of Virginia’s ten major drainages, the Potomac, Rappahannock, and James. Shenandoah streams support diverse aquatic resources including native eastern brook trout and an abundance of their preferred food, aquatic insects. Monitoring and protecting water

quality and aquatic life is an essential part of the park’s stewardship mission. Visitors who enjoy recreational fishing are also an important part of the mission. The following regulations serve to protect the park’s aquatic resources and provide recreational opportunities so that future generations can enjoy the challenge of fishing in Shenandoah National Park.

Fishery Management

The Park’s Fishery Management Plan has two objectives: (1) to preserve and perpetuate native brook trout as a key component of the park’s aquatic ecosystems; and (2) to allow for recreational fishing on those park streams that consistently produce adequate numbers of gamefish for maintaining population stability. Regulations and park policies are designed to carry out these objectives.

Regulations



- 1. Waters**
All streams within Shenandoah National Park, including all tributaries, are open for catch-and-release recreational fishing or additionally designated as open for harvest. Streams designated as open for harvest are also considered to be open for catch-and-release fishing.
- 2. Season**
Streams and their tributaries designated as Open for Harvest or Catch-and-Release are open all year.
- 3. License**
All Virginia residents 16 years and older fishing within the park must have a Virginia state fishing license in possession. A 5-day nonresident license (\$10.50) may be purchased at Big Meadows and Loft Mountain Waysides, or from local sporting goods stores. Non-residents 12 years and older must have a Virginia license.
- 4. Size Limit**
No trout under 9 inches in length may be kept. Undersized fish must be immediately and carefully returned to the water. Size limits on other species of game fishes are those established by applicable State law.
- 5. Creel Limits**
No person may retain more than 6 trout per day or have more than 6 trout in possession. Creel limits on other species of game fishes are those established by applicable State law.
- 6. Lures**
Only manufactured or handmade flies or lures with a single hook may be used. Single hook shall mean single point (no multiple point hooks).
- 7. Bait**
All streams and waters are closed to the possession or use of organic bait including but not limited to corn, cheese, dough compounds, worms, insects, live or dead minnows, amphibians, preserved or non-preserved fish eggs, and synthetic or chemical compounds including pheromones, other liquid scents, and powerbait.
- 8. Commercial Fishing Guides**
Anyone who serves as a fishing guide or instructor for compensation must obtain an Incidental Business Permit from the park superintendent prior to entering the park.

Park Streams Designated as Open for Harvest

The following streams, including their tributaries within the Park, are open for harvest fishing in accordance with regulations published in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and the Virginia State Fishing Regulations.

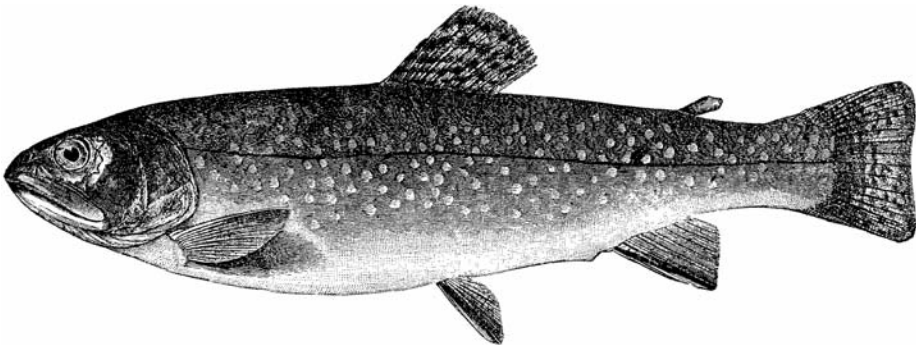
Streams	County	PATC Map #
Piney River	Rappahannock	# 9
Thornton River, North Fork	Rappahannock	# 9
Thornton River, South Fork	Rappahannock	# 9
Hughes River	Madison	#10
Brokenback Run	Madison	#10
Whiteoak Canyon Run	Madison	#10
Cedar Run	Madison	#10
Rose River	Madison	#10
Conway River	Madison/Greene	#10
South River	Greene	#10
Ivy Creek	Greene	#11
Doyles River	Albemarle	#11
Jeremys Run	Page	# 9
Pass Run	Page	#10
Hawksbill Creek, East	Page	#10
Hawksbill Creek, Little	Page	#10
Naked Creek, East Branch	Page	#10
Naked Creek, West Branch	Page	#10
Big Run	Rockingham	#11
Madison Run	Rockingham	#11
Paine Run	Augusta	#11
Meadow Run	Augusta	#11

Note: Stream designations are subject to change.

Recreational Fishing Guidelines

Anglers who wish to continue recreational fishing at its finest are encouraged to consider the following ethical fishing techniques for hooked fish:

1. All fish that are to be released must be carefully handled and immediately returned to the stream. Try to release fish without removing them from the water.
2. Maintain control of fish with wet hands and only a slightly firm grip.
3. Most importantly, avoid contact or damage to sensitive gills. The use of barbless hooks minimizes handling of the fish and any related stress.
4. Never leave litter, hooks, or spent fishing line in the park – pack it out.



Be sure to follow the Seven Principles of **LEAVE NO TRACE**:

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare

2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

3. Dispose of Waste Properly

4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts

6. Respect Wildlife

7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors
- More Information at www.LNT.org